

**Practitioner's Docket No. MPI1997-035CP3****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly amend claims 8, 9, 17, and 47 as follows, and re-number inadvertently misnumbered claims 15-58:

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

1. cancelled
2. cancelled
- 3.(amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is a mammalian polypeptide.
4. The isolated polypeptide of claim 3, wherein the polypeptide is a human polypeptide.
5. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid having ATCC Designation No. 209510.
6. (amended) An isolated polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.
7. (amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
8. (currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least about 90% identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.
9. (currently amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which has a at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:
  - (a) binding to a target peptide;
  - (b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and
  - (c) interacting with a metal ion selected from  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ , and  $Mn^{2+}$ .
10. The isolated polypeptide of claim 9, which binds a target peptide.
11. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds angiotensin I.

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12. The isolated polypeptide of claim 11, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

13. The isolated polypeptide of claim 10, which binds kinetensin.

1415.(renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 13, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

1516.(renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 8, which is encoded by a nucleic acid which hybridizes to a nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or complement thereof.

1617. (renumbered, currently amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising at least 50 consecutive amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:2 and which has at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) binding to a target peptide;
- (b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and
- (c) interacting with a metal ion selected from  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ , and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

17-43, 18-44 renumbered, cancelled

4445. (renumbered) An isolated polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

4546. renumbered, cancelled

4647.(renumbered, currently twice amended) The An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 90 % identical to the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said polypeptide has at least one bioactivity of an ACE-2 polypeptide; wherein the bioactivity is selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) binding to a target peptide;
- (b) catalyzing hydrolysis of a target peptide; and
- (c) interacting with a metal ion selected from  $Zn^{2+}$ ,  $Co^{2+}$ , and  $Mn^{2+}$ .

4748. renumbered, cancelled

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4849. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 47, which binds a target peptide.

4950. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds angiotensin I.

5051. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 50, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

5152. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 49, which binds kinetensin.

5253. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 52, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).

5354. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 17, which binds a target peptide.

5455. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds angiotensin I.

5556. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 55, which hydrolyzes angiotensin I into angiotensin (1-9).

5657. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 54, which binds kinetensin.

5758. (renumbered) The isolated polypeptide of claim 57, which hydrolyzes kinetensin into kinetensin (1-8).